

Supervisor Vess Resigns

Board Discusses Schools, Vepco, Budget Problems

WARM SPRINGS - With obvious regret, LeeRoy Vess Jr. announced Tuesday that he will resign from the Bath County Board of Supervisors because of health reasons. His resignation will be effective April 30.

Vess has been a member of the supervisors only since February when he was declared winner of a special election to replace John M. Trimble who resigned from the board to accept the position of Bath County extension agent. Although Clarence McMullen was first installed as supervisor of the Valley Springs District, a recount of votes made in January showed a tie vote which Vess won by the toss of a coin. Vess said he regrets to have to resign when he is "just getting to the place where I am doing some good." Vess said he resigned at the order of his physician.

At their monthly meeting Tuesday the supervisors approved the instructional part of the Bath County School Board's budget for 1974-75, at the request of the school board. School Board Chairman, Edsel Ford said this will enable the board to employ teachers for the coming school year.

Supervisor Roy Cleek emphasized there was no agreement between the supervisors and the school board to keep the local portion of the budget at the same figure as last year. Vess said the supervisors asked for no such promise. Ford told the board this was a promise the school board had made to themselves, because they felt the vocational facility was their first priority.

Although a letter from the Bath Education Association was read to the supervisors stating that the BEA has rejected the salary plan and asking the supervisors not to approve the school board budget before a meeting with

with Supervisors Roy Cleek, Norman T. May and Charles Lowman in favor of the school board plan and LeeRoy Vess and Stuart Hall opposed. Bath County instructional personnel will get a flat 4 percent salary increase, which will include increment.

After the vote on the school board salary proposal, the supervisors granted a meeting with BEA representatives, school board members and school administrators which was first set for Thursday, April 11 and then postponed. The meeting will be for the purpose of hearing problems that are said to be present in Bath County schools. Supervisor Stuart Hall said the group would have to "go into executive session to hear some of the problems." The public will be invited to the meeting.

The supervisors approved the Industrial Development Authority requested at the last meeting by the Virginia Electric and Power Company. A board will be appointed later to administer the authority, which may provide low-cost funding for the Vepco project on Back Creek.

Vepco officials who attended the meeting Tuesday discussed the necessity of planning for school expansion in Bath County to accommodate the children of construction workers who are expected in the county in 1975 and 1976. Resident engineer Ken Moore estimated that only about 15-20 students can be expected in the county during the 1974-75 school year due to the Vepco project.

Vepco treasurer A. M. Clement told the supervisors that by order of the Federal Corporation Commission, Vepco will not be able to make any block payments to the county to cover capital expenses such as schools. He said building needs should be paid for by bonds. Clement told the board "tax revenues will far exceed any burdens" to the coun-

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Although a letter from the Bath Education Association was read to the supervisors stating that the BEA has rejected the salary plan and asking the supervisors not to approve the school board budget before a meeting with the teacher organization, the supervisors approved the salary proposal by a three to two vote,

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Clement told the supervisors they can expect the pumped storage project to generate \$2,000 to \$3,000 in taxes to the county in 1974, \$250,000 in 1975, \$700,000

(Continued on Page 4)

The Old Timer

succeeded at 75 to 100 yards. The turkey sported a 10 1/2-inch beard.

Committee Appointed To Study County-wide Water, Sewage Plan

WARM SPRINGS - Duncan M. Byrd Jr., was appointed chairman of a water and sewage study committee set up Monday night at a continued meeting of the Bath County Board of Supervisors. Members named to the committee to work with Byrd to make proposals for a resolution which will lead to the incorporation of a water and sewage authority for all of Bath County are Bill Parks, Hal St. Claire, Ray Rogers and Jack Calhoon.

Byrd said his committee would try to draft a resolution by the next meeting of the supervisors. At that time, supervisors plan to name members to the board that would control the authority. Byrd told the supervisors "Nothing is stifling the Bath County economy more than the lack of a public water and sewage authority."

At the same meeting Monday night, supervisors appointed seven members to the newly created Industrial Development Authority which was created at the request of Virginia Electric and Power Company to provide low-cost financing for the pumped storage project on Back Creek. Tom Wallace and Harold Deltz were appointed to the authority for one year terms, Hugh Gwin and Johnny Gazzola for two year terms and James Ten-

nant for three year terms and Gen. Hugh Judy was appointed
(Continued on Page 2)

Highland Reassessment

MONTEREY - Highland County is presently undergoing the reassessment of property values for tax purposes that the state requires of a county this size every six years, according to Highland County Commissioner of the Revenue Carl P. Armstrong.

Frank Wade Evans is the tax assessor hired by the county for the 1974 reassessment. Evans is from Clifton Forge. He is a graduate of VPI and SU, with a degree in forestry and wildlife, Armstrong said, and he has had previous assignments in Botetourt and Rockbridge counties. Armstrong said Evans has been trained for his duties by the Virginia Department of Taxation Division of Real Estate Appraisal, and he was recommended by the state supervisor of real estate appraisals.

Armstrong said the assessor

Citizen's Group Retains Counsel In School Fight

WARM SPRINGS - The "Bath County Concerned Citizens" group called a last-minute meeting at the Bath County Courthouse in Warm Springs Tuesday night after the Tuesday night meeting planned by the Bath School Board was called off.

Jimmy Stinnett, who is chairman of the group appointed at a public PTA meeting last month, told the 100-150 people attending the meeting "We think we have gone as far as we can go without legal counsel." Stinnett said the committee decided at a meeting last Friday night to get legal help. He said he feels the county school situation is at a turning point, "where it will either go forward or backward."

Glen Williams another member of the committee, told the citizens "I don't think we're in here to win a war with the school board, but we want to see our children get a good educational system next year," adding that "We don't want to go out on a limb and do something the community doesn't want us to do."

Williams introduced attorneys Thomas C. Spencer and Malcolm G. Crawford of the Lexington law firm of Spencer and Crawford, who have been retained by the committee.

Spencer told the group he feels the first order of business is to get negotiations going between the school board and the Bath Education Association. He said he feels this is a political prob-

lem rather than a legal one at the present time. Then, Spencer said, is the time to "clean up the mess that is a result of fall-out from this situation," after the teachers are reemployed.

Spencer asked citizens to channel all questions to him through the executive group, which includes Stinnett, Williams, Jackle Plecker, Pete Hobbs and William Thorne.

Bath County residents at the meeting voted to give authority to the executive committee and to the lawyers representing the citizens group to make decisions and call public meetings in order to try to solve the problems of getting Bath County teachers reemployed.

Williams called on the concerned people in Bath for financial support, saying the cost of legal council will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,000.

Williams said the treasurer of the group is T. R. Miles, of Millboro. Community finance volunteers are Therman Jenkins in Mountain Grove, Mrs. Delbert Snyder in Cedar Creek, Mrs. Iris Leary in Pond Hill, Mrs. Mavis Plecker in Millboro, Mrs. Judy McCoy and Mrs. Faye McCoy on Wilson Creek and U.S. 42, Mrs. Patl Montgomery in Healing Springs and Mrs. Norma Giles at Fassifern Traller Court.

Williams said a public meeting will probably be held sometime next week, and other meetings will be called as necessary.

Board Hires 26 Teachers

Citizens' Group Files Legal Action

WARM SPRINGS - Members of the Bath County Concerned Citizens Committee executive board said yesterday (Wednesday) that they would file four petitions for legal suits with Bath County Clerk Claude W. Dodson. Named in the petitions for suits will be Superintendent of Schools Russell L. Thomas and members of the Bath County School Board, the committee said.

The committee said they had tried to avoid court action in the stalemate situation between the school board and teachers who did not return notices of reemployment, but they said the school board has refused to negotiate with teachers in any way. The school board has maintained that they cannot legally rehire the teachers because the teachers did not submit their notices by the specified date.

The Citizens Committee said the suits will deal with other matters besides the present teacher conflict, including violation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

On Monday this week the Bath County School Board held an unannounced board meeting at the school administration office. According to Administrative Assistant L. Paul Myers, board members were notified of the meeting Monday morning and the meeting was set for 1 p.m. the same day. There was no notification to the public or to the press.

Members of the Bath County Citizens Committee who went to the school administration office to look at school records learned from picketers outside the building that a meeting was in progress in the board room. The VEA investigating committee present in the county to study the school problem, and the lawyer who represents the Citizens Committee were notified of the meeting by the Citizens Committee and they arrived at the administration office for the last part of the school board meeting.

According to Myers, the meeting was requested by Urban O. Cleek, general school supervisor, who asked that board to take some action on prospective teachers. According to Myers and School Board Chairman Tommy Ford, 26 new teachers were hired, although Cleek said 18-19 new teachers were approved. Myers emphasized that the new teachers were approved for contracts, but they have not been matched to a particular teaching position. None of the teachers who withheld notices of reemployment were among the teachers approved.

Seventy-five percent of the new teachers approved are first-year teachers. Bath County has had trouble holding experienced teachers in the school system for several years. Two-thirds of the teachers in Bath County were involved in refusing to submit their letters of employment this year.

State Police Investigating Bath School, Conflict Claims

WARM SPRINGS - A team of Virginia State Police investigators is in Bath County in a continuing investigation of possible misappropriations of funds and conflicts of interests. Under in-

vestigation are school administrators, school board members and other county officials.

Sgt. C. L. Bradley, who is with the investigation unit of the State Police Division in Salem said the team of investigators has been in Bath County "several weeks" and is continuing its investigation of possible irregularities in the operation of the county school system.

According to Bradley, the investigation was requested by Bath County Commonwealth's Attorney Erwin S. Solomon, who is also chairman of the State Crime Commission. Solomon was out of town and could not be reached for comment at press time Wednesday, but Bradley said "several allegations" including conflict of interest and misappropriation of school funds are being studied. Bradley did not give the source of the allegations.

Bradley said he had met with Solomon and that two investigators have since been assigned to probe matters in the Bath school situation, some of which extend "over a period of time" and some date back at least to 1971, he said.

"We're not that deep into it yet," Bradley said, and he added that he could not release the specifics of the allegations.

The Roanoke Times yesterday quoted "sources close to the situation in Bath County" as saying the allegations include:

- "A county school administrator used federal money to hire a relative to work in the school system even after the official was told that such an arrangement constituted a conflict of interest."

- "Federal funds designated for transportation use were used only to employ maintenance personnel and records were falsified to

Highland Fair Is Underway Today

DAILY PROGRAM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22

- 11:00 A. M. All Exhibits in Place
- 11:30 A. M. Judging Exhibits
- 12:30 P. M. Light Horse and Pony Show
- 6:00 P. M. Parade
- 8:00 P. M. Tsugundi Indian Dancers

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23

- 8:30 A. M. 4-H and FFA Livestock Show
- 9:30 A. M. Senior Livestock Show
- 3:00 P. M. Kiddie Show
- 6:00 P. M. Tractor Pulling Contests
- 8:00 to 10:00 P. M. Western Square Dancers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

- 10:00 A. M. Dog Show
- 1:30 P. M. Horse Show
- 2:30 P. M. Horseshoe Pitching Contest
- 6:30 P. M. Ham Show and Auction
- 7:30 P. M. Horse Show
- 8:00 P. M. Barbershop Quartet
- (After Horse Show) Fireworks Display

Potomac Edison Seeking Rate Increases

Supervisors Pay Outstanding Athletic Account

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- "Federal funds designated for transportation use were used only to employ maintenance personnel and records were falsified to give the appearance that the funds were being used for the appropriated purpose."

- "School-owned property is being leased by a county official."

- "County officials hold offices in a company which does substantial business with the school board."

- "Past school board members, their relatives and county officials have received monetary compensation for services performed for the school board."

Earlier this year Williamsville Supervisor Stuart L. Hall requested that the U. S. Attorney's Office in Roanoke conduct an investigation of the school situation, but a spokesman for that office told a Roanoke Times Reporter when the request was made that it was not the appropriate authority to undertake such an investigation.

Some of the allegations being investigated by the State Police team came to light several years ago when the county board of

Potomac Edison Seeking Rate Increases

Supervisors Pay Outstanding Athletic Account

HAGERSTOWN, MD. - The Potomac Edison Company, which includes the former Monterey Utilities Corp., has filed application with the Virginia State Corporation Commission to increase electric rates to produce \$3.4 million in additional annual revenue.

Included in the \$3.4 million request is a \$682,492 temporary surcharge granted by the SCC effective Aug. 1 under bond subject to possible refund after further investigation and hearing. Bills that have been received by PE customers in Virginia since Aug. 1 reflect the surcharge increase.

J. M. McCardell, Executive Vice President and General Manager of PE, said higher rates are necessary to provide the money to finance construction and maintain equipment the company needs to meet the electrical demands of its customers in Virginia.

Financing construction

WARM SPRINGS - At the request of the Bath County School Board, the supervisors agreed Monday to pay an outstanding balance of \$7,965.86 to Pres Brown, Inc. of Lexington before Sept. 6.

Bath County Superintendent of Schools Russell L. Thomas told the supervisors that if the bill isn't paid by Sept. 6, the sporting goods store will add last year's interest and the total bill will then be \$8,638.15, and by June of 1975, he said, it will be \$10,193.01. The interest rate on the outstanding amount is 18 percent per year.

Thomas said the outstanding balance is the result of a three-year commitment between the Bath County High School athletic department and Pres Brown Inc. He said the athletic department paid \$2,500 on the bill last year but charged \$3,100 in equipment. Thomas asked the supervisors to make an appropriation to eliminate the debt.

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J. M. McCardell, Executive Vice President and General Manager of PE, said higher rates are necessary to provide the money to finance construction and maintain equipment the company needs to meet the electrical demands of its customers in Virginia.

"Escalating construction costs," McCardell said, "are being caused both by general inflation and the installation of equipment on both new and existing facilities for protection of the environment.

"In addition," he continued, "the cost of money the company must borrow for construction has

(Continued on page 2)

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According to Thomas, the school board did not know about the agreement or the bill until May 22 of this year, but he said he had known about the agreement for a year and he added, "My knowledge led to an agreement to pay the debt off in

(Continued on Page 4)

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Some of the allegations being investigated by the State Police team came to light several years ago when the county board of supervisors asked for a probe of the school situation. There are indications that some of the allegations have been surfacing periodically over the past several years, and it is believed by some that last spring's teacher-school board conflict brought the allegations to light again.

Bath School Suit To be Continued Despite the Cost

WARM SPRINGS - At a meeting held at the Bath County Courthouse Sunday afternoon, the Bath County Concerned Parents and Citizens Association resolved to continue its suit against the coun-

ty school board "at any cost," but members of the organization said they do not wish to hold school board members personally responsible for the salaries of teachers alleged to have been hired illegally because the meetings at which they were hired were held in violation of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Three Candidates Qualify for Special Election

WARM SPRINGS - Three candidates have qualified to run for Valley Springs representative to the Bath County board of supervisors in the November 5 special election according to Bath County Clerk Claude W. Dodson. Friday was the deadline for qualifying as a candidate for this election.

The suit stems from the conflict between the school board and county teachers which began last spring as a salary dispute and ended with two-thirds of the county's teachers losing their jobs. The citizens group was informed by parents and interested residents who said they were eager to see the dispute settled with as little damage to the school system as possible, but the group was unsuccessful in its effort to start negotiations between the board and the teachers.

Dr. Larry R. Denius of Hot Springs and Bill Thorn of Healing Springs will challenge incumbent Clarence McMullen for the supervisors seat for the 14 months remaining in the term that was first vacated by John M. Trimble, who won the seat in the November 1971 election and took office Jan. 1, 1972.

During the conflict the school board refused the teachers salary requests, saying there was no room in the school board budget for the increases. The board also refused to ask the supervisors to appropriate extra money for teachers salaries because they said their first priority was a new vocational facility for the county.

After the resignation of Trimble, Clarence McMullen supposedly won the special election, holding the position for two months. However, upon a recount of the votes, it was found that a tie occurred between McMullen and LeRoy Vess Jr. Vess became supervisor upon a coin flip in his favor, but resigned shortly thereafter due to health reasons. At that time, McMullen was appointed to fill his position.

The teachers refused to sign contracts for this school year unless their requests for a four percent salary increase plus increment and payment of hospitalization insurance were granted, saying their requests were reasonable.

Candidates for the post in the 1973 special election included McMullen, Vess and Thorne as well as Paul S. Smith and James S. Stinnett.

The total amount of difference between the teachers' salary proposal and the school board's offer (which was a flat four percent raise with no increment or insurance) was around \$15,-

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Bath School Suit

(Continued from page 1)

000 for the entire county school system. Ironically, the school board lost more than 40 experienced teachers as well as the vocational school which was recently turned down by the board of supervisors, and they are facing a suit brought against the individual members of the school board by the citizens association.

Members of the citizens group's executive committee said their lawyer is negotiating with the school board's lawyer, Erwin S. Solomon, who is also the county's Commonwealth's Attorney, and members say they were told the school board may concede that the May 8 meeting was illegal in return for the citizens group's dropping the suit.

A proposal by Solomon to require early salary negotiations between the school board and the Bath Education Association, ending in binding arbitration if the board and the teachers organization cannot come to an agreement, was discussed by the citizens group, which tabled a resolution on the matter until the school board has a chance to study the proposal and react to it.

The Rev. George W. Wickersham II, who heads a citizens committee to seek a change in the method of selection for school board members throughout the state, said he and his committee will meet with State Delegates Marshall Coleman and A. R. "Pete" Glesen sometime in September. Wickersham said his committee feels school board members would be more responsive to the wishes of the county residents if they were elected

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Newly appointed school board member Glenn C. Williams, who attended his first board meeting last week, announced he will resign his position as vice chairman of the citizens group. He said he will continue to work toward the goals of the group and will remain a member.

Williams said he feels the county school problems are the result of lack of management, and that "the courts are going to take care of a lot of it in the near future, I am sure." He encouraged members of the group to attend school board meetings, saying "We need some honest communication. I don't think there's any member of the school board right now who doesn't have the interest of the children of the county at heart."

The citizens group appointed four of its members to attend the October meeting of the school board, but according to Healing Springs resident Jack Strasser, who has attended school board meetings since the school problems began early last spring.

four of its members to attend the October meeting of the school board, but according to Healing Springs resident Jack Strasser, who has attended school board meetings since the school problems began early last spring, "You can attend the school board meeting for four hours and not know what is going on - everything is printed and in front of the members. They refer to numbers on their paper and no one else knows what's going on."

A nominating committee of Jack Strasser, Johnny Woodzell and the Rev. Dallas Bennett was appointed to name members to the executive committee from the Williamsville, Cedar Creek and Warm Springs Magisterial Districts, and a telephone committee was set up to increase communications within the association.

The citizens association will meet again on Monday, October 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the courthouse, and a fund raising ham dinner will be held at the Fairview Community Center on Friday, Sept. 27 from 5 to 8 p.m. to boost the treasury of just over \$1,000 in preparation for the upcoming legal fight.

Highland Board Names Zoning Administrator, Building Inspector

MONTEREY - The Highland County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in a called meeting Monday night to hire Sidney L. Simmons, 49, of McDowell, as the county's zoning administrator and building code inspector.

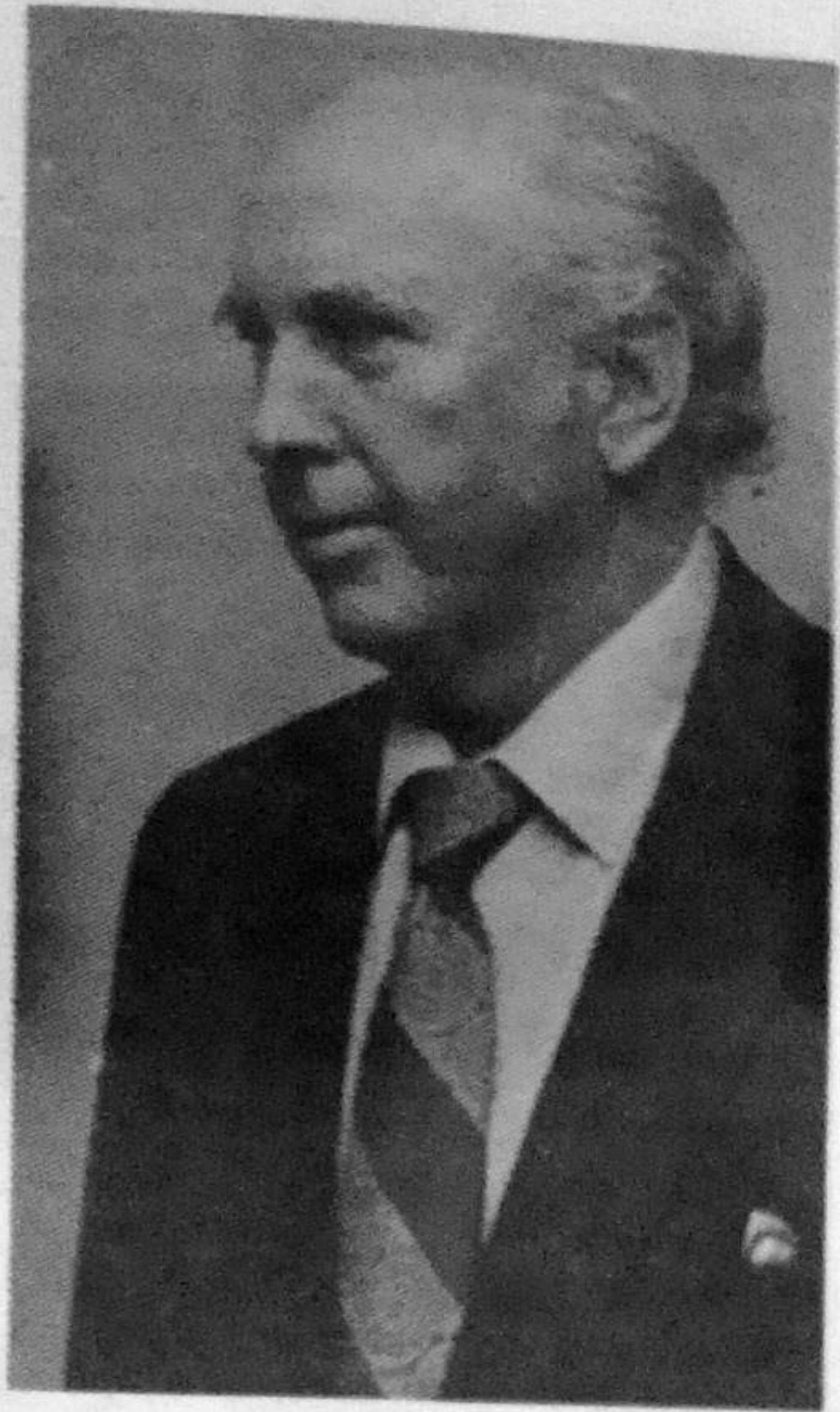
Mr. Simmons' appointment was immediate, but he will not assume his duties full time until Monday, Nov. 18.

The salary for the position was set by the supervisors at \$640 per month, plus mileage payments, for a period running until June 30, 1975, when data will be considered and a decision made on a more permanent basis for a continuing salary base. For the present, the supervisors agreed the job will be full time, on a 40-hour week basis, until a permanent office can be established.

Mr. Simmons, a native of Radford, has been a property owner in Highland for the last 10 years, and he currently resides in the old "Mill House" at McDowell, which he has remodeled from its original status as a grain mill into a residence. Mrs. Simmons, who is a native of Clifton Forge, is the former Annie Mae Van Lear, and is a former school teacher who is now doing substitute work in Highland County Schools.

Mr. Simmons retired from the Department of Defense, Navy, in June 1973 after 30 years of service as a budget officer and officer in the division of supply. He also owned his own electronic and appliance business in Arlington prior to moving here permanently, is a real estate broker and has been active in buying and restoring properties.

He is a graduate in business administration from Strayer College, Washington, D. C., and of the Capital Radio Engineering



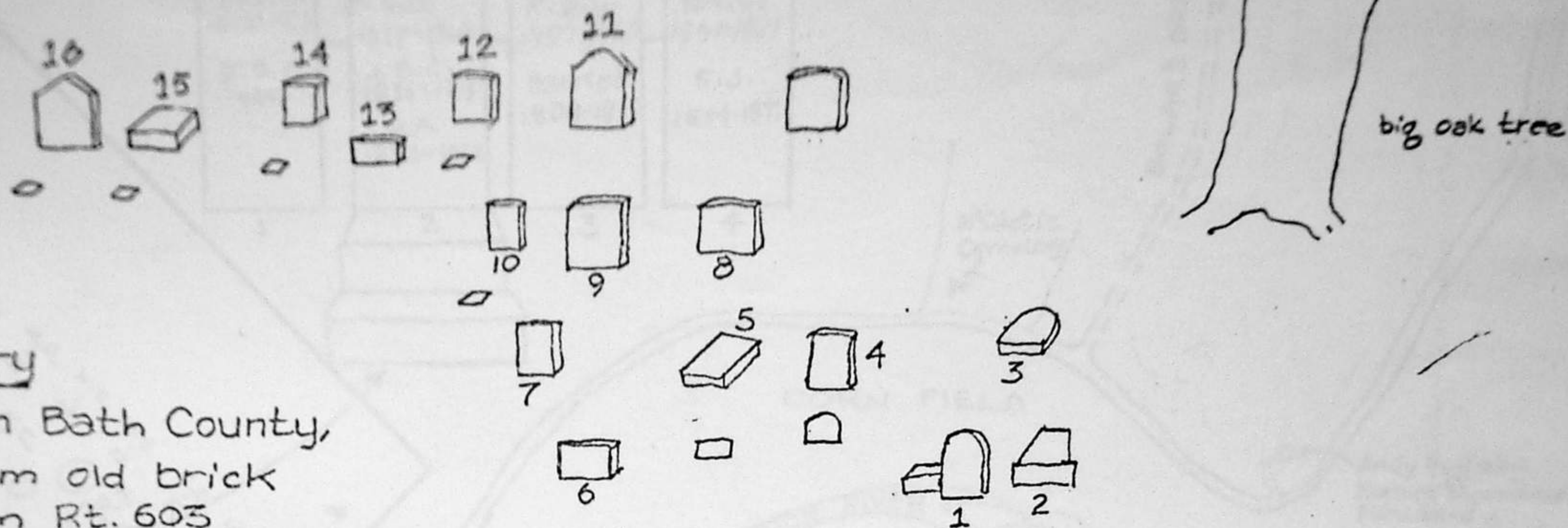
SIDNEY L. SIMMONS

School in Washington. He is a Mason and a member of the Stonewall Ruritan Club.

Mr. and Mrs. Simmons have a daughter, Mrs. Lyn Weaver, of Briery Branch in Augusta County, who has a master of education degree in Psychology, and who is currently a consulting Psychologist in Highland County schools; and a son, Sidney F. Simmons, who resides in Staunton.

Simmons said he will welcome inquiry from Highland citizens concerning zoning and building code affairs at any time, and stated that he intends for his office to work with all citizens in every way possible to fully explain the various regulations under the laws, and to fairly deal with all matters under his jurisdiction.

The office of the zoning administrator and building code inspector will be temporarily located in the courthouse.



McClintic Cemetery

on Jackson River in Bath County,
Virginia across from old brick
McClintic house on Rt. 603
approx. 3 miles above old
Edlar-Revercomb cemetery.

1. Alexander H. McClintic

Born July 16, 1810
Died May 25, 1876

2. Alice McClintic (wife of Alexander)

Born July 13, 1812
Died Sept. 30, 1878

3. John P. McClintic

Born Feb. 24, 1810
Died May 10, 1818

4. William McClintic

Died Sept. 13, 1786
in the 27 year of his age

5. William McClintic

Died Dec. 1801
Aged 84 years

6. In Memory of Elizabeth Ann daughter of Alexander H. and Alice McClintic

Born July 7, 1818
Died Mar. 18, 1844

7. Nancy McClintic

Died 1809
Aged 85 years

8. William McClintic

Born
Died Aug. 6, 1861
Aged 78 years, 7 months & 4 days

9. Nancy McClintic

Wife of W^m McClintic
Died Feb. 19, 1859
Aged 72 years, 2 months & 21 days

10. In loving memory of Charles Austin

son of
James and Mary McClintic
Born Oct. 6, 1852
Died Sept. 21, 1861

11. Nancy, wife of William McClintic

Born Mar. 15, 1822
Died Mar. 25, 1894

12. In loving memory of Marietta R., beloved wife of James McClintic

Born Nov. 20, 1827
Died Sept. 1, 1897

13. James McClintic 1818-1899

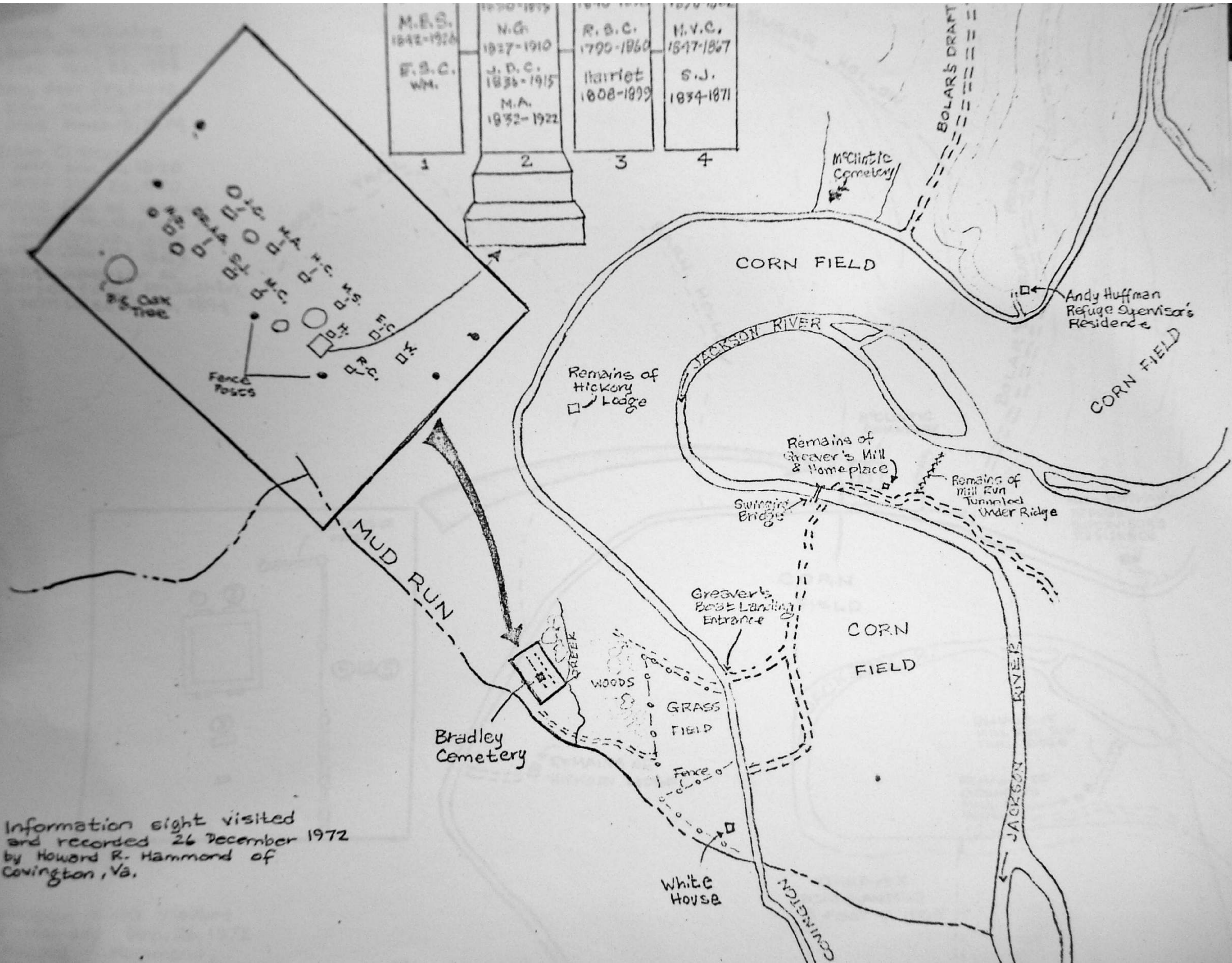
14. In loving remembrance of Holmes Alexander, son of Walter & Lillie McClintic

Born June 16, 1897
Died April 4, 1899
Our Darling

15. Manetta Sue McClintic 1857-1925

16. T. S. McClintic 1855-1920

information gathered by Howard Revercomb Hammond on visit to cemetery December, 1972.



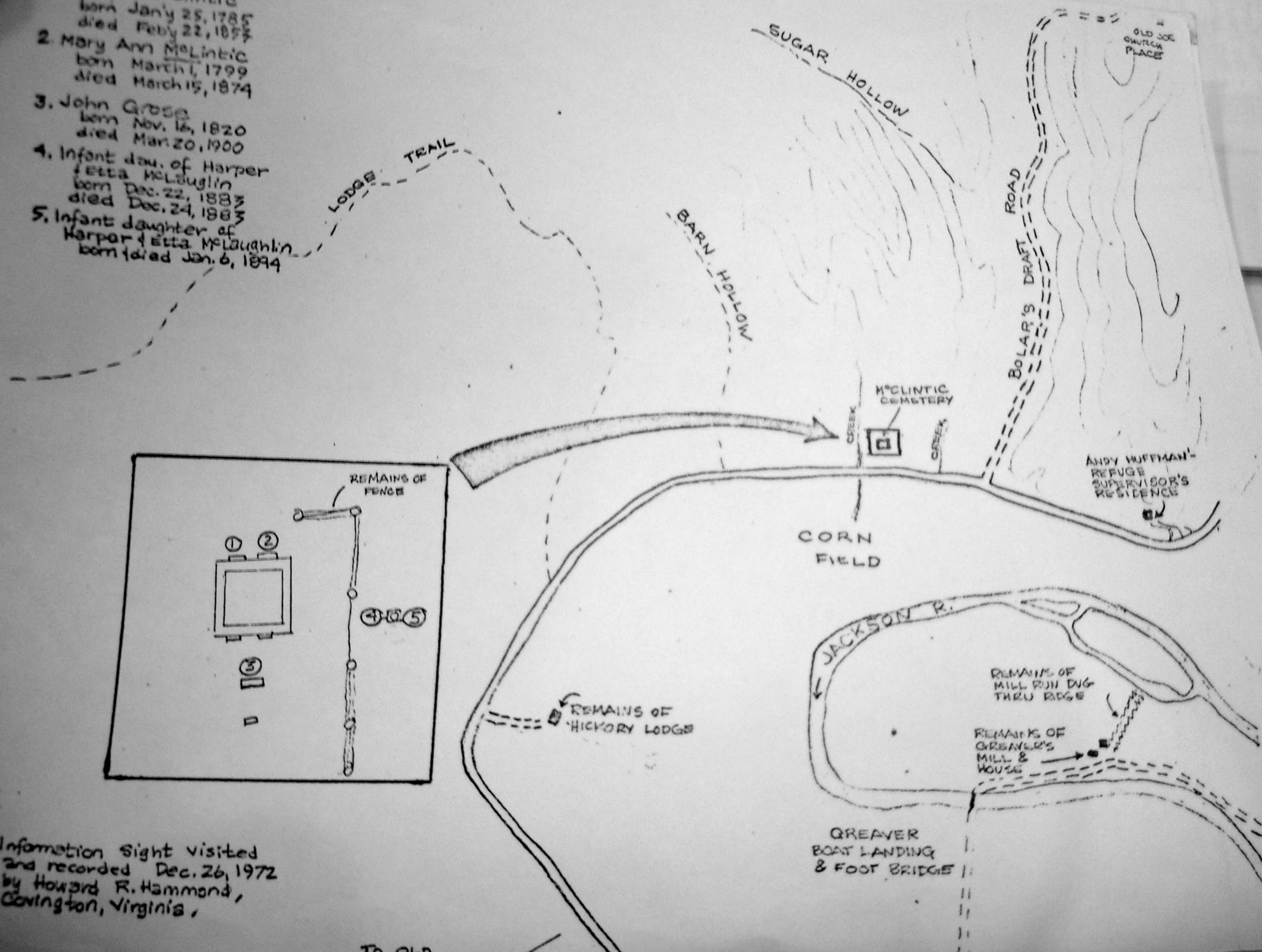
Information sight visited
and recorded 26 December 1972
by Howard R. Hammond of
Covington, Va.

- 1. Moses McLintic
born Jan'y 25, 1785
died Feb'y 22, 1897
- 2. Mary Ann McLintic
born March 1, 1799
died March 15, 1874

- 3. John Grose
born Nov. 16, 1820
died Mar 20, 1900

- 4. Infant dau. of Harper
& Etta McLaughlin
born Dec. 22, 1883
died Dec. 24, 1883

- 5. Infant daughter of
Harper & Etta McLaughlin
born & died Jan. 6, 1894



Information sight visited
and recorded Dec. 26, 1972
by Howard R. Hammond,
Covington, Virginia.

AREA CEMETERIES

Prepared by the Bath County Historical Society
1974

220 NORTH

Warm Springs Cemetery
Pritt-Muddy Run
Pritt-Rocky Ridge
Robinson-Rocky Ridge
Jacob Cleek [1855]
Hampton Cleek [1873]
Stony Run [1858]
Helms-Little Valley
Valley Bethel - Big Valley
Hamilton Chapel

220 SOUTH

Mt. Olivet Ashwood
Healing Springs Baptist [1862]
Thompson - Cascades
Union Chapel [1910]
Dufour Farm - Old Mustoe/Smith
Burruss Farm
Campbell - Clifton Forge Mountain
Pinehurst Memorial
Falling Springs
Green Hill
McElwee-Crowdertown
Henry Lester
Jones Cemetery
Emory Methodist
Falling Springs Presbyterian